

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 19 December 1991

The week in statistics ...

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This is the last *Statistics Weekly* to be released in 1991. The first issue for 1992 will be on Thursday, 9 January.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 1992

November unemployment rate tops the 1982-83 peak

Large rises in the estimates of unemployed males and females, together with falls in employment, brought the November 1991 estimate of the unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) to 10.5 per cent. This exceeded the previous highest rate (10.3%) recorded by the labour force survey during the 1982-83 recession.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of employment fell for the third successive month. Trend estimates of total employment continue to fall, although at a slower rate in recent months.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of total employed persons fell to 7,650,100 in November 1991. Full-time employment fell by 90,400 to 5,908,500, while part-time employment rose by 54,200 to 1,741,600.

For males, employment fell by 13,500 to 4,456,200, with a fall of 36,900 in full-time employment partly offset by a rise of 23,400 in part-time employment. For females, employment fell by 22,700, with a fall of 53,600 in full-time employment outweighing the increase of 30,800 in part-time employment.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons rose by 40,800 to 900,700 in November 1991. Male unemployment rose by 21,200 to 547,000, with the number of males seeking full-time work increasing by 23,900. Female unemployment rose by 19,600 to 353,700 with females seeking full-time work and part-time work increasing by 12,100 and 7,500 respectively.

The unemployment rate for males rose by 0.4 percentage points to 10.9 per cent, the highest level recorded by the survey. For females, the unemployment rate rose by 0.6 percentage points to 10.0 per cent. The trend estimate of the unemployment rate continues to increase.

The labour force participation rate was steady at 63.0 per cent.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Un- employed	Unemploy- ment rate — per cent —	Participa- tion rate — per cent —
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total			
	— '000 —					
1991 —						
July	5,919.5	1,703.0	7,622.6	831.9	9.8	62.6
August	6,006.1	1,722.5	7,728.6	840.5	9.8	63.4
September	5,976.4	1,728.8	7,705.2	872.1	10.2	63.4
October	5,998.9	1,687.4	7,686.4	859.9	10.1	63.0
November	5,908.5	1,741.6	7,650.1	900.7	10.5	63.0

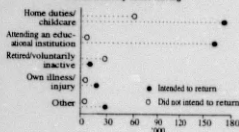
Survey finds big rise in newly discouraged jobseekers

There were 58,800 discouraged jobseekers amongst those who left the labour force in the year to April 1991 compared with 15,000 in the year to April 1988, the last time this survey was run.

Of the 4,844,400 persons not in the labour force (that is, neither employed or unemployed) at April 1991, 565,800 left the labour force within the past twelve months. Of these, 390,900 persons intended to return to the labour force, 55 per cent of them indicating a preference to return to part-time work.

The number of females who departed the labour force was almost double the number of male departures yet women comprised only 42 per cent of the labour force at April 1991.

PERSONS INTENDING TO RETURN TO THE LABOUR FORCE, APRIL 1991
Main activity since leaving



PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE
'000

	Age group in years			
	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 59	60 and over
Males —				
November 1985	48	31	22	37
April 1988	67	38	30	31
April 1991	89	40	31	35
Females —				
November 1985	84	177	46	16
April 1988	102	195	56	11
April 1991	113	193	50	15

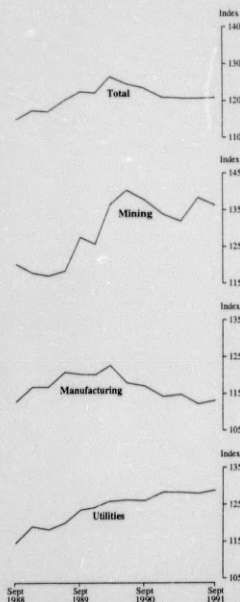
Of all those who left the labour force in the 12 months to April 1991, 341,500 worked immediately prior to leaving the labour force, and 224,300 looked for work immediately prior to leaving. For persons whose last labour force activity was working, 39 per cent had lost their job while the remainder left their jobs voluntarily.

For persons whose last labour force activity was looking for work: 49 per cent ceased looking for personal reasons; 26 per cent gave up looking for work because they became discouraged jobseekers; and 44 per cent were aged 15 to 24.

For males the most common main activity undertaken while not in the labour force was 'attending an educational institution' (49%). For females, however, 'home duties/childcare' was the most commonly reported main activity (68%), with 'attending an educational institution' (25%) the second most common activity.

The most common occupation group for women who had been working was 'salespersons and personal service workers' (28%) whereas for males it was 'labourers and related workers' (33%). The most frequently reported industry of previous employment was the wholesale and retail trade industry, closely followed by community services.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION
Seasonally adjusted at constant prices
1984-85 = 100



Slight rise in industrial production

Industrial production rose by 0.2 per cent in the September quarter 1991 in seasonally adjusted constant price terms. It had remained steady in the previous quarter, following a four-quarter slump. The trend series also indicates a levelling out of the recent decline.

The 'industrial sector' covers mining, manufacturing, and utilities (electricity, gas and water). The industrial production index, dominated by movements in the manufacturing industry, is 2.0 per cent lower than in the September quarter 1990.

The seasonally adjusted index for the mining industry fell by 1.5 per cent in the September quarter following a 4.8 per cent growth in the previous quarter. The index is 1.1 per cent lower than that recorded in the September quarter 1990.

The manufacturing production index recorded a rise of 0.9 per cent following falls in four of the previous five quarters. Since the September quarter 1990 the index has fallen by 3.3 per cent.

The manufacturing index recorded rises in seven of the twelve industry subdivisions of manufacturing in the September quarter. The largest rises were for miscellaneous manufacturing (up 9.7%) and wood, wood products and furniture (up 6.8%). The rise recorded for transport equipment (up 3.4%) follows falls in eight of the ten previous quarters which put the index at the lowest level recorded for this industry. The most significant fall was recorded for textiles (down 7.8%) following three quarters of strong growth.

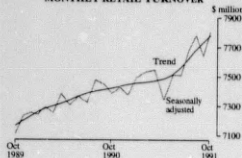
Since the September quarter 1990, eight of the component manufacturing industries recorded falls, the largest being non-metallic mineral products (down 15.0%) and wood, wood products and furniture (down 12.5%). The largest rise over the 12 month period was textiles, up 11.6 per cent, despite the fall in the September quarter 1991.

The utilities sector recorded a slight rise of 0.7 per cent in the September quarter 1991, to give growth of 2.2 per cent since the September quarter 1990. The trend series for utilities has recorded continuous growth since 1982-83.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1991
Seasonally adjusted at average 1984-85 prices
Percentage change

	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Mining (excluding services to mining)	-1.5	-1.1
Manufacturing	0.9	-3.3
Electricity, gas and water	0.7	2.2
<i>Total industrial production</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>-2.0</i>

MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER



Moderate increase in retail trade

Growth in the trend estimate of turnover for retail and selected service establishments averaged 0.7 per cent for the three months ended October 1991. The annual growth rate (October 1991 over October 1990) has risen to 4.9 per cent, an average monthly increase of 0.4 per cent.

Department stores have shown strong growth over the three months ended October with the trend estimates increasing by an average of 1.2 per cent per month but average growth over the last twelve months is only 0.4 per cent.

Both the grocery industry and 'other' food stores (excluding butchers) recorded an average monthly increase of 0.8 per cent over the last three months (average monthly increases over the year ended October were 0.7 and 0.6 respectively).

Clothing and fabric stores are showing very weak growth while hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs continue in decline with the trend estimate falling by an average of 0.9 per cent over the last three months. The average monthly decrease over the last year for this industry is 0.5 per cent. Pharmacies are also in decline.

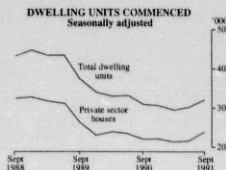
RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

	Original value in October 1991 \$ million	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended October 1991	12 months ended October 1991
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2,300	0.8	0.7
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	968	-0.9	-0.5
Department and general stores	850	1.2	0.4
Clothing and fabrics stores	592	0.2	0.3
Other food stores (excluding butchers)	535	0.8	0.6
Electrical stores	415	0.3	-0.3
Pharmacies	333	-0.8	1.0
Newsagents	256	-0.1	0.3
Other industries	1,661	n.a.	n.a.
<i>All industries</i>	<i>7,909</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>0.4</i>

The trend estimates show all States are experiencing growth. The strongest average monthly increase over the last three months was 1.2 per cent for the Australian Capital Territory followed by Western Australia and South Australia.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER
Percentage change in State trend estimates

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	ACT	Aust.
1991 —								
August	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.3	0.2	1.2	0.8
September	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.0	-0.1	1.2	0.7
October	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.1	1.3	0.6



Housing starts continue to improve

Total dwelling unit commencements rose for the second successive quarter in the September quarter 1991, in both original and seasonally adjusted terms. While the private sector figures rose strongly (see table), public sector commencements were little changed.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the number of dwelling units commenced in the September quarter 1991 (32,099) increased by 6.2 per cent over the June quarter 1991 estimate of 30,214 and was 4.0 per cent higher than the September quarter 1990 estimate of 30,879.

DWELLING UNIT COMMENCEMENTS
September Quarter 1991

	Private sector houses		Total dwelling units	
	Number	Percentage change on previous quarter	Number	Percentage change on previous quarter
Original	24,275	11.3	33,058	9.8
Seasonally adjusted	23,870	10.9	32,099	6.2

In original terms, the total number of dwelling units commenced in the September quarter 1991 (33,058) was 9.8 per cent higher than the June quarter 1991 figure of 30,112. Increases were recorded in all States and Territories except for Tasmania and the Northern Territory, where small decreases were recorded.

For further information, order the publication *Building Activity Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary (8750.0)*, or contact Paul Seville on (06) 252 6067.

Wine producers feel the squeeze

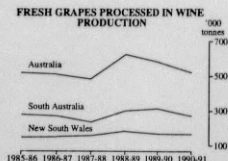
The total grapes crushed for the 1990-91 year by enterprises crushing over 400 tonnes was 521 thousand tonnes, a decrease of 10.7 per cent on the previous year. A further 18 thousand tonnes was crushed by enterprises crushing between 50 and 400 tonnes.

All States recorded a drop in their crushings compared with last year. South Australia decreased by 13.7 per cent to have a 51.9 per cent share of the Australian crush. New South Wales decreased marginally but its share of the Australian total rose to 31.9 per cent. Victoria decreased by 15.8 per cent to have an Australian share of 15.6 per cent.

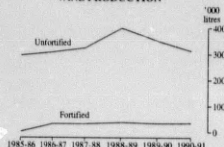
From these crushings, net total wine of 394.3 million litres was produced, showing a decline of 10.2 per cent on last year. Of this, 33.8 million litres of fortified wine was produced, 312.0 million litres went into the production of unfortified wine and 54.1 million litres of distillation wine was generated.

Total domestic wine sales for 1990-91 were 324.9 million litres, while an additional 54.1 million litres left our shores to tempt overseas palates.

Continued ...



WINE PRODUCTION



There was a reduction in the stocks of wine held. Total beverage wine stocks fell by 5.8 per cent, from 552.4 million litres to 520.1 million litres. Stocks of unfermented grape juice also fell, by 25.9 per cent to 12.2 million litres. Of the beverage wines, most types recorded a drop, with stocks of fortified wines falling 7.4 per cent to 94.9 million litres, sparkling wine down 3.3 per cent to 58.6 million litres and table wine falling 7.3 per cent to 355.6 million litres.

WINE PRODUCTION, AUSTRALIA AND STATES, 1990-91
Million litres

Type	SA	NSW	Vic.	Other States	Aust.
Beverage wine —					
Fortified	15	12	7	0	34
Unfortified	152	103	54	2	312
Total beverage wine	167	115	61	2	346
Distillation wine —	36	8	10	0	54
Gross total wine	203	123	72	2	400
Net total wine	201	121	70	2	394

For further information, order the publication *Wine Production, Australia and States* (8366.0), or contact Brian Salisbury on (08) 237 7626.

New import price index

The Import Price Index has been substantially modified following completion of a comprehensive review.

Commencing with the September 1991 issue the index is being compiled on the basis of a revised list of items and a weighting pattern updated to reflect recent changes in the composition of our imports. The reference base of the index has also been updated to 1989-90=100.0.

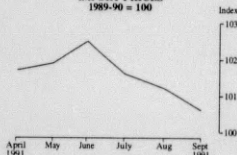
The index is now compiled and published monthly with the new monthly series being linked to the previous quarterly series wherever possible (see the appendices to the September issue of *Import Price Index, Australia* for further details).

The September 1991 issue shows that the index decreased by 0.6 per cent between August and September 1991. The decrease was caused by falls in price for a wide variety of items together with a strengthening of the Australian dollar against the US dollar during the month.

IMPORT PRICES, SEPTEMBER 1991

Selected items	Percentage change from previous month
Manufactured goods	0.1
Miscellaneous manufactured goods	-0.3
Machinery and transport equipment	-0.5
Mineral fuels	-1.0
Food and live animals	-1.1
Chemicals	-1.4
Crude materials	-4.9
All items	-0.6

For further information, order the publication *Import Price Index, Australia* (6414.0), or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

IMPORT PRICES
1989-90 = 100

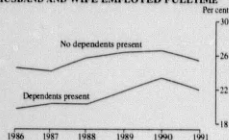
Families and the labour force

An estimated 48 per cent of the nation's 4.5 million families had two or more members employed in June this year and a further 29 per cent had one member in employment.

Some 47 per cent of married-couple families had both partners employed. The proportion was highest in the Northern Territory (62%) followed by the ACT (61%). For the States the proportion ranged from 44 per cent in Tasmania to 48 per cent in South Australia and Western Australia.

The number of married-couple families in which the husband was unemployed was 183,500, an increase of 74,800 (69%) compared with June 1990. In 71 per cent of these families, the wife was also unemployed or not in the labour force.

MARRIED-COUPLE FAMILIES WITH BOTH HUSBAND AND WIFE EMPLOYED FULLTIME



MARRIED-COUPLE FAMILIES AND THE LABOUR FORCE
'000 families

	Husband			Total
	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	
Wife employed —				
1990	1,858.0	23.4	74.9	1,956.3
1991	1,801.2	53.4	85.1	1,939.7
Wife unemployed —				
1990	70.5	18.1	8.2	96.8
1991	81.1	29.9	6.6	117.6
Wife not in the labour force —				
1990	960.2	67.2	731.7	1,759.1
1991	928.9	100.1	762.8	1,791.8
Total —				
1990	2,888.7	108.7	814.8	3,812.2
1991	2,811.2	183.4	854.5	3,849.1

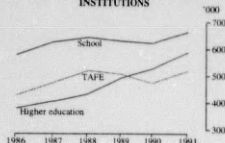
In June 1991, 9 per cent of all families were one-parent families with the majority (87%) having a female parent. Some 44 per cent of females who headed a one-parent family were employed, with more than half of those (56%) employed full time. Male parents were employed in 70 per cent of instances, with 94 per cent of those being in full-time employment.

For one-parent families in which the parent was unemployed, 23 per cent of the parents had been unemployed for one year or longer.

Of persons who were not members of a family and were living alone, 39 per cent were employed. Some 57 per cent of males in this group were employed, compared with 26 per cent of females.

An estimated 74 per cent of persons who were not members of a family and were not living alone were employed, with the vast majority of males (88%) being in full-time employment, as were 80 per cent of females.

ATTENDANCE AT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



Post-compulsory education growth continues

In May 1991, 1,903,600 people or 17 per cent of the population aged 15 to 64 were attending a school or tertiary educational institution, according to the latest annual figures on transition from education to work. Five years ago the corresponding figure was 1,525,200 or 15 per cent of the population.

Over the five years to May 1991, the number of students has risen by 378,400 (25%). The largest increase was at higher education institutions where the number of students rose by 208,300 (55%). Increases of 89,000 (21%) at TAFEs and 83,900 (15%) at schools were also recorded from 1986 to 1991.

In May 1991 316,500 persons were reported as having left full-time education during the previous year, down 43,100 on the estimate from May 1990. Sixty-six per cent of persons identified as leavers in the survey were employed at May 1991 and 25 per cent were unemployed. Comparable figures for May 1990 were 78 per cent and 15 per cent.

On the other hand, 327,800 or more than 17 per cent of those attending an educational institution in May 1991 had not attended any such institution in the previous year. Of these, almost 80 per cent were studying part-time.

The figures reveal that, at the time of the survey, 975,600 students (51%) were employed — 547,700 on a full-time basis — and a further 146,200 (8%) were actively seeking work.

Educational status of 19 and 22 year olds at May 1991 was:

- ☐ 45 per cent of 19 year olds (132,700) and 24 per cent of 22 year olds (66,800) were attending an educational institution,
- ☐ 11 per cent of 19 year olds (31,300) and 32 per cent of 22 year olds (87,600) not currently attending had post-school qualifications,
- ☐ the remainder, 44 per cent (129,100) of 19 year olds and 44 per cent (119,900) of 22 year olds had attended at no higher level than secondary school and did not hold a post-school qualification.

The survey identified 139,100 apprentices, a decrease of 23,500 since May 1990. This decrease occurred almost entirely among first-year apprentices, down 25,500 since 1990. The industry most affected was manufacturing, where numbers fell from 44,000 to 30,000 over the year.

EDUCATIONAL ATTENDANCE AND LABOUR FORCE STATUS, MAY 1991
Thousands persons aged 15 to 64

In May 1991	Not in the labour force			Total
	Employed	Unemployed		
Full-time	346	88	710	1,144
Part-time	629	58	72	759
Not attending	6,663	664	2,209	9,536
Total	7,638	810	2,991	11,440

Inquiries

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- ☐ by mail order
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- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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(06) 252 6104

All the week's releases: 11 to 17 December

General

- Publications Advice, 13 December 1991 (1105.0; free)
- Publications Advice, 17 December 1991 (1105.0; free)
- Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., December 1991 (1304.0; \$19.00)
- Statistics Weekly, 12 December 1991 (1318.0; \$4.00)
- South Australian Year Book, 1992 (1301.4; \$29.50)
- Summary of Statistics, NT, September Qtr 1991 (1305.7; \$8.50)
- Queensland at a Glance, 1992 (1312.3; \$1.00)

Demography

- Deaths, Aust., 1990 (3302.0; \$16.50)
- Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., October 1991 (3401.0; \$6.00)

Social statistics

- Crime and Safety Survey, NSW, April 1991 (4509.1; \$10.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Foreign Trade, Aust., Merchandise Imports, October 1991 (5433.0; \$9.00)
- Government Financial Estimates, Aust., 1991-92 (5501.0; \$20.00)
- Public Unit Trusts, Aust., September Qtr 1991 (5645.0; \$9.00)
- Assets and Liabilities of Friendly Societies, Aust., September Qtr 1991 (5660.0; \$10.00)

Labour statistics and prices

- The Labour Force, Aust., November 1991, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.00)
- Information Paper: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Aust. — Unit Record File on Magnetic Tape, September 1990 (6251.0; free) — *new issue*
- The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, November 1991 (6271.0; \$65.00)
- Weekly Earnings of Employees (Distribution), Aust., July 1991 (6310.0; \$11.50)
- Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., October 1991 (6312.0; \$10.00)
- Import Price Index, Aust., September 1991 (6414.0; \$9.00)
- Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., October 1991 (6415.0; \$10.00)

Agriculture

- Shearing and Wool Production Forecast, Aust., 1991-92 (7211.0; \$10.00)
- Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, October 1991 (7204.3; \$4.50)

Secondary industry and distribution

- Quarterly Indexes of Industrial Production, Aust., September Qtr 1991 (8125.0; \$10.00)
- Retail Trade, Aust., October 1991 (8501.0; \$10.00)
- Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, October 1991 (8504.0; \$10.00)
- Building Activity, Aust.: Dwelling Unit Commencements, September Qtr 1991, Preliminary (8750.0; \$10.00)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, September 1991 (8741.1; \$10.00)
- Forest Products, Tas., September Qtr 1991 (8203.6; \$4.00)
- Building Approvals, Tas., October 1991 (8731.6; \$9.50)
- Housing and Locational Preferences, ACT, 1991 (8710.8; \$10.00) — *new issue*

Transport

- Interstate Freight Movement, Aust., 1989-90 (9212.0; \$7.50)
- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, October 1991 (9303.3; \$10.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the month to 14 January 1992

December

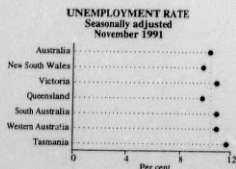
- [19]** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, October 1991 (\$609.0; \$10.00)
 Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia, August 1991 (6302.0; \$10.00)
 Export Price Index, Australia, October 1991 (6405.0; \$7.50)
 Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, October 1991 (6412.0; \$10.00)
- [20]** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, October 1991 (6407.0; \$10.00)
 Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, October 1991 (6408.0; \$7.50)
 Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, October 1991 (6411.0; \$10.00)
 Manufacturing Production, Australia, November 1991, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.00)

January

- [6]** Balance of Payments, Australia, November 1991 (\$301.0; \$15.00)
- [8]** Building Approvals, Australia, November 1991 (8731.0; \$12.50)
- [9]** Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, November 1991 (6354.0; \$11.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
 17 December 1991



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 91)*	-8.4	-22.7	0	-8.9	-7.0	-16.9	n.a.	n.a.	-10.2
Retail turnover (Oct. 91) (trend estimate)	4.9	3.4	3.9	5.7	7.0	3.4	n.a.	13.0	4.9
New motor vehicle registrations (Oct. 91)† (a)	-21.2	-33.4	-16.6	-12.4	-2.5	-10.0	-12.6	12.5	-20.3
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Oct. 91)	3.8	12.8	45.0	-6.7	15.0	-3.6	-29.6	42.3	15.7
Value of total building work done (June qtr 91)	-8.3	-28.6	4.7	-11.4	-27.9	-0.5	39.9	18.1	-13.2
Employed persons (Nov. 91)*	-2.0	-4.5	0.1	-3.1	0.0	-4.6	-3.4	1.0	-2.3
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 91)	2.8	3.9	3.3	4.1	1.9	3.6	3.3	3.7	3.3
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 91)	3.6	5.2	5.7	6.5	8.1	3.1	5.8	5.6	5.0
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (June qtr 91)	-1.9	-1.4	7.8	-4.5	-2.2	2.6	-4.6	-7.8	0.1

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.
 (a) Refer to footnote (e) on next page.

Key national indicators – consolidated to 17 December 1991

				Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
				Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
Period							
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	94,473	94,688	1.0	0.1
	— 1984-85 prices			62,900	63,396	-0.3	-1.9
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	6,231	6,475	-0.4	-15.3
	— 1984-85 prices			4,817	5,012	0.5	-13.5
Expected new capital expenditure			Three months to Dec. 91	7,056	n.a.		n.a.
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	Oct. 91	7,908.7	7,803.5	n.a.	5.7
	— 1984-85 prices		Sept. qtr 91	14,915.3	15,486.9	2.9	0.2
New motor vehicle registrations (e)		no.	Oct. 91	42,966	40,584	1.5	-20.3
Dwelling unit approvals			Oct. 91	13,127	11,906	-2.4	13.3
Value of all building approvals		\$m	"	2,046	1,874	15.9	4.2
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	June qtr 91	6,253	6,264	-5.1	-13.2
	— 1984-85 prices			3,963	3,970	-4.7	-13.3
Manufacturers' sales	— current prices	"	Sept. qtr 91	36,453	35,729	2.6	-0.3
	— 1984-85 prices			25,305	24,860	2.8	-0.8
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Three months to Dec. 91	37,652	n.a.	n.a.	-5.0
Labour							
Employed persons		'000	Nov. 91	7,674.1	7,650.1	-0.5	-2.3
Unemployment rate †		%	"	9.6	10.5	0.5	2.4
Participation rate †		"	"	62.6	63.0	-0.1	-0.9
Job vacancies		'000	Aug. 91	25.6	25.1	-2.1	-46.9
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.07	1.11	-1.0	-12.2
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 91	215.7	n.a.	0.6	3.3
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0		Sept. 91	118.3	n.a.	-1.3	-7.7
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry (f)	1988-89 = 100.0		Sept. 91	111.1	n.a.	-0.1	n.a.
Company profits before income tax		\$m	Sept. qtr 91	2,982	2,841	21.2	-17.9
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time) (f)		\$	Aug. 91	567.50	n.a.	1.2	4.9
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †		% per annum	Oct. 91	8.70	n.a.	-0.85	-4.10
10-year Treasury bonds †				9.80	n.a.	-0.50	-3.55
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	Oct. 91	4,385	4,323	-6.8	1.0
Imports of merchandise		"	"	4,702	4,189	-3.4	3.2
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	-317	134	-55.3	-39.4
Balance of goods and services (c)		"	"	-517	47	-53.9	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)		"	"	-1,790	-1,298	-6.7	13.4
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 91	n.a.	99.7	-0.7	-4.6
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt		\$m	30 Sept. 91	133,480	n.a.	-1.6	3.5
Net foreign liabilities				182,282	n.a.	2.8	7.1
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
SUS	per SA		Oct. 91	0.7938	n.a.	0.1	-1.1
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		"	60.2	n.a.	-0.5	2.7
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)		million	June 91	17.3	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals		'000	Oct. 91	216	215	-4.3	14.5

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) October 1991 is not strictly comparable with October 1990 due to the introduction by motor vehicle registration authorities of a more accurate identification and classification system. (f) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 19 December 1991.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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